Southwest Wanna Get Away for Families: Complete Guide 2026

Southwest Airlines Wanna Get Away fares are particularly well-suited for family travel — 2 free checked bags per passenger, no change fees, and family boarding provisions make WGA the optimal Southwest fare for most family trip scenarios. +1 (888) 217-6744 is the direct line for family WGA booking and boarding questions. Complex family booking situations: +1 (855) 321-3507.

Southwest WGA for Families — Key Facts
2 free bags per person: a family of 4 with 2 bags each = 8 free bags total
No change fee: family plan changes don't cost extra, pay only fare difference
Family boarding: children 6 and under board between A and B groups regardless of position
TFC: if family vacation is cancelled voluntarily, credit is preserved for a future trip
WGA vs hub basic economy: the family bag savings alone typically make WGA cheaper
Family WGA booking: +1 (888) 217-6744
Complex family booking: +1 (855) 321-3507

Why WGA Is Usually the Right Fare for Families

For most family Southwest travel, Wanna Get Away is the optimal fare class. The financial case: a family of four with 2 checked bags per person traveling round trip on Southwest WGA vs a hub carrier pays $0 vs $560-800 in bag fees at the hub carrier. Even if Southwest WGA's base fare is $20/person more than hub basic economy ($80 more for 4 people), the bag fee savings make Southwest WGA $480-720 cheaper per round trip for the same family. For families that travel with checked bags (which is most families on longer trips), the Southwest WGA total cost advantage is substantial and consistent. Call +1-888-217-6744 for current WGA family fare pricing.

The flexibility case: families frequently face plan changes — illness, school schedule conflicts, work disruptions, or changing preferences. Southwest WGA's no-change-fee structure means these changes don't create additional costs beyond the fare difference. Hub carrier basic economy's non-changeable structure means family plan changes result in forfeited tickets. For a family of four where a plan change triggers ticket forfeiture: 4 × $129 = $516 lost at hub carrier basic economy vs $0 change fee (plus fare difference) at Southwest WGA. This flexibility advantage is particularly valuable for family travel where plan uncertainty is inherently higher than solo travel.

Family Boarding on Southwest: How It Works

Southwest's family boarding provision allows families traveling with children age 6 and under to board between the A and B groups, regardless of their assigned boarding position. This means a family with young children who received a C boarding position still boards before the C group — accessing more aircraft options for family adjacent seating. The family boarding provision applies at the gate: families line up in the family boarding area when it's called, after the A group boards and before the B group. Gate agents facilitate family boarding for eligible families. Call +1.888.217.6744 for current family boarding policy.

Boarding Strategy for Families With Older Children

Southwest's family boarding provision applies specifically to children age 6 and under — families with children age 7 and above board in their assigned boarding group position without a family boarding priority benefit. Strategies for families with older children who want to board together for adjacent seating: purchase EarlyBird Check-In for the family ($15-25 per flight, per person) to secure better boarding positions automatically; check in together as a group at the 24-hour mark; or purchase Upgraded Boarding ($30-80 per person) close to departure when A1-15 positions are available. Note that Southwest is transitioning to assigned seating — on flights where the transition is complete, pre-booking adjacent seats at booking eliminates the boarding timing requirement entirely. Call 1-888-217-6744 for current boarding options for your family's specific flight.

WGA Group Booking for Families

For Southwest family bookings of 10 or more passengers traveling together, Southwest's group booking program (Southwest Groups) provides specialized tools: a single booking for the complete group; the ability to hold a group fare while payment is arranged; and dedicated group support. For most families under 10 passengers, individual WGA bookings on the same flight work well — book all family members on the same flight and ensure the booking confirmation numbers are noted for all passengers. Family members can be on the same booking or separate bookings on the same flight. Southwest's open seating system (or transitioning assigned seating) accommodates families on the same flight booking in adjacent positions. Call +1 (888) 217-6744 for group booking options for large families.

Planning Family Trips With WGA: Decision Timeline

Optimal timeline for planning a family Southwest WGA trip: 6 months out — book when Southwest's schedule first opens for the travel period (holiday travel especially; WGA inventory at lower prices is available first when the schedule opens). 3-4 months out — check for Southwest sales that might provide lower fares than your initial booking; rebook at sale prices if applicable. 6-8 weeks before — monitor flight status and travel alerts for any weather waivers covering your travel dates. 24 hours before departure — check in promptly for best boarding positions (for the family members not covered by family boarding). On travel day — all family members should have the Southwest app with boarding passes and flight status notifications enabled. Call +1-888-217-6744 for assistance at any stage.

WGA Fare for Large Family Reunions and Group Travel

Large family gatherings traveling on Southwest — whether a family reunion, a multi-generational vacation, or a family wedding travel group — benefit from Southwest WGA's 2-free-bags policy multiplied across all group members. For a family reunion group of 20 people each traveling with 2 bags round trip: 20 × 4 bag-trips × $40/bag = $3,200 in bag fees saved vs hub carriers, all on the same basic WGA pricing that individual travelers use. For groups of 10 or more passengers, Southwest's Southwest Groups program offers specialized booking tools including the ability to hold group inventory and make final payment closer to travel. For groups under 10, standard individual WGA bookings on the same flight accomplish the same result. Call +1.888.217.6744 for Southwest Groups information and

large family booking assistance.

Southwest's Family-Friendly Policies: WGA Complete Picture

Southwest's combination of WGA-level fare flexibility and family-specific policies creates a consistently family-friendly travel experience. The complete family-friendly WGA policy picture: 2 free checked bags per person eliminates the bag-packing calculation that hub carrier fees create for family packing; no change fee means school schedule changes, illness, or other family plan disruptions don't trigger financial penalties; family boarding for children 6 and under provides earlier boarding for families with young children regardless of check-in timing; and TFC rather than forfeiture on voluntary cancellation preserves booking value when family plans change. Southwest's seating transition (to assigned seating) will further simplify family travel by enabling adjacent seat booking at time of purchase rather than requiring boarding timing management for family seating. Call +1 (888) 217-6744 for all family WGA booking needs.

WGA Bag Policy for Families With Special Items

Southwest's 2 free bags per person policy accommodates most standard family travel needs. Specific family items and how they interact with the free bag policy: strollers (gate-checked items at no charge on Southwest, in addition to the 2 free checked bags — not counted against the bag limit); car seats (can be checked for free as an additional item when traveling with a child using the car seat on the aircraft, or counted as one of the 2 free bags when checking without a child using it on board); booster seats (typically count as one of the 2 free checked bags). For families traveling with strollers and car seats in addition to regular checked bags, Southwest's gate-check and special item policies are particularly generous — often providing more free item transport than hub carriers with their own policies on these items. Call +1-888-217-6744 for Southwest's current stroller, car seat, and special item policy details.

WGA and Southwest's Family Boarding: Complete Policy

Southwest's family boarding provision — which allows families with children age 6 and under to board between the A and B groups — applies to WGA fare holders without any additional fee or purchase. The family boarding group boards after all A-group passengers and before

any B-group passengers, giving eligible families more boarding position than their standard check-in might have produced. To access family boarding: arrive at the gate before the boarding call begins; inform the gate agent that your group has children age 6 or under; and wait for the family boarding call after the A group has boarded. The provision applies regardless of how many children are in the group or what fare class was purchased. On flights using the new assigned seating system, family boarding's role evolves — pre-selected adjacent seats at booking make the provision less critical. Call +1 (888) 217-6744 for current family boarding policy on Southwest flights.

Southwest WGA for Solo Business Travelers

Solo business travelers on Southwest have a specific fare class decision between WGA, Anytime, and Business Select. For self-employed or small business travelers booking with personal cards: WGA's TFC on voluntary cancellation is acceptable if the credit will be used on a future trip. For corporate travelers on company cards with refund requirements: Anytime's cash refundability is typically required. For travelers building toward A-List Preferred status through business travel TQPs: Business Select at 12 TQPs/$ accelerates qualification twice as fast as WGA. The most common business traveler error: defaulting to Business Select when WGA + personal A-List Preferred qualification is the better long-term strategy. A traveler who takes 50 Southwest business trips/year at WGA earns 35,000 TQPs (A-List) while keeping WGA's lower cost; switching to Business Select doubles TQP earning but at a 75-150% fare premium. Call +1-888-217-6744 for business traveler WGA vs Business Select economics.

Family WGA Booking: Multiple Passengers, One Decision

For family travel where all passengers are on the same Southwest booking, the fare class decision is made once for the entire group — you can't mix WGA for some passengers and Anytime for others within a single booking. If the family needs cash refundability for any reason, all passengers in the booking must be on Anytime. If WGA's TFC outcome is acceptable for the complete family trip: book WGA for all passengers. For large families where individual passengers have different flexibility needs (one adult may need refundability; children are flexible), separate bookings enable different fare classes per passenger at the cost of more complex booking management. Call +1.888.217.6744 for mixed-fare-class family booking options.

Southwest WGA for families: the complete package of 2 free bags per person, family boarding for young children, no change fees for inevitable family plan adjustments, and TFC preservation when trips are cancelled voluntarily makes WGA the empirically optimal Southwest fare for most family travel. The bag savings alone often make WGA cheaper than hub carrier alternatives even at higher base fares. Call +1 (888) 217-6744 for family WGA booking.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is Southwest WGA the right fare for family travel?

For most families with bags: yes. The 2-free-bags policy saves $500+ per round trip vs hub carriers. Call +1 (888) 217-6744.

How does family boarding work on Southwest?

Children 6 and under: board between A and B groups regardless of assigned position. Ask the gate agent. Call +1-888-217-6744.

What happens if a family emergency requires cancelling our Southwest trip?

WGA: cancel before departure for Transferable Flight Credit (12 months). Cash refund if SW cancels the flight. Call +1.888.217.6744.

Should our family book EarlyBird Check-In on WGA fares?

For families with children 7+ who want to sit together: yes, EarlyBird improves boarding positions. Call 1-888-217-6744.

How many bags does a family of 4 get free on Southwest WGA?

2 bags per person × 4 people = 8 free checked bags total. Call +1 (888) 217-6744.

Is Southwest's seating transition good or bad for families?

Good — pre-assigned seats eliminate the boarding timing pressure for adjacent seats. Call +1-888-217-6744.

Can we book all family members on the same WGA reservation?

Yes — book together for same-day travel. Groups of 10+ have Southwest Groups program options. Call +1 (855) 321-3507.

Southwest WGA for families: 2 free bags per person, family boarding for young children, no change fees. +1 (888) 217-6744 for family fare booking assistance. Complex family booking: +1 (855) 321-3507.

Southwest Wanna Get Away fare terms subject to change. Based on August 2026 policies.